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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 6, 2002.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Carrie Reddick***RECEIVED**

DEC 11 2002

**Technology Center 2600**

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. NTI-024

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application )

PATENT APPLICATION

Inventor(s): Fang-Cheng Chang )

Art Unit: 2623

Application No.: 09/941,453 — )

Examiner: Joseph Mancuso

Filed: 8/28/2001 )

Title SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING  
DUMMY FEATURES ON A MASK LAYER )**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed below or on an attached Form PTO-1449 is information known to applicant(s). A copy of each listed publication and U.S. and foreign patent, except for pending U.S. applications, is being submitted herewith, along with a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. If form PTO-1449 is enclosed, the Examiner is requested to initial and return it in accordance with MPEP § 609.

This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.



SN 09/941,453

- ☒ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):
- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date and is other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d)  
-- OR --
  - ☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage  
-- OR --
  - ☒ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits.  
-- OR --
  - ☐ (4) It is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the period specified in § 1.97(b), but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:
- ☐ a certification as specified in § 1.97(e) is provided below; **or**
  - ☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the period specified in § 1.97(c), but on or before payment of the issue fee, then:
- A. a certification as specified in § 1.97(e) is completed below; **and**
  - B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☒ **Fee Authorization.** Applicant believes no fee is due. However, if a fee is found to be owing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$180.00 and charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0574 (Docket No. NTI-024).

Respectfully submitted,

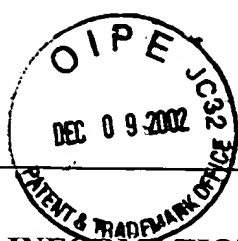
BEVER, HOFFMAN & HARMS, LLP

Dated: December 6, 2002

By: 

Jeanette S. Harms, Reg. No. 35,537

Telephone: (408) 451-5907  
Customer No. 29477

SHEET 1 of 3

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>  <b>PTO-1449</b>	<b>Atty. Docket No.</b>	<b>Serial No.</b>
	NTI-024	09/941,453
	<b>Applicant</b>	
	CHANG, Fang-Cheng	
	<b>Filing Date</b>	<b>Group</b>
	8/28/2001	2623

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	6,130,750	10/10/2000	Ausschnitt, et al.	356	401	8/28/1997
	6,346,426 B1	2/12/2002	Toprac, et al.	438	8	11/17/2000

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EXAMINER: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Considered: \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

SHEET 2 of 3

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>  <b>PTO-1449</b>			<b>Atty. Docket No.</b> NTI-024		<b>Serial No.</b> 09/941,453	
			<b>Applicant</b> CHANG, Fang-Cheng			
			<b>Filing Date</b> 8/28/2001		<b>Group</b> 2623	
			<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>			
<b>EXAMINER'S INITIALS</b>	<b>PATENT NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUBCLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE</b>
	2002/0164064 A1	11/7/2002	Karklin, et al.	382	145	3/20/2001
	2002/0164065 A1	11/7/2002	Cai, et al.	382	149	3/20/2001

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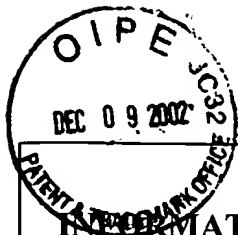
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	<b>Filing Date</b>	<b>Group</b>
	8/28/2001	2623
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>		
<b>EXAMINER'S INITIALS</b>	<b>CITATION</b>	
	Lin, B.J., et al., "Single-Level Electric Testsites for Phase-Shifting Masks", SPIE, Vol. 1673, pp. 221-228, March 9-11, 1992.	

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